


# **The Book Reviews of Chester Cuthbert**

**Authors' surnames beginning with**

**N**



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Nabokov, Vladimir

Laughter in the Dark; New York, Berkley Publishing Corporation (#G-156), (September, 1958), (1938, New Directions) 159p.

A different version of this novel was published in England under the title Camera Obscura.

This is the story of a Berlin wealthy art collector who becomes enamored of a theater usherette, leaves his wife and daughter to live with her, is blinded in an automobile accident and deceived by the girl and her lover who lives with them in secrecy until accidentally discovered by the collector's brother-in-law who visits him after his daughter's death and exposes the lover.

A sophisticated novel, this is well-written and exposes the problems of marital infidelity, but is otherwise of little interest.

I shall probably let Brent Richard have the book as the cover is by Maguire.





Nathan, Robert

Heaven and Hell and the Megas Factor; New York, Delacorte Press (1975); Book list; 116p.

This slight fantasy merely gives samples of newspaper reports of violence and sex, suggests that both heaven and hell are disturbed by these and send emissaries, Sophia and Buckthorne to investigate; these two fall in love, much to Sophia's satisfaction, and they discover a virus which may be used to reduce the violent capacity of the human race and which is spread by insects.

Age and disillusionment are apparent in this work of Nathan's, and although it is short, its substance could have been expressed in a few paragraphs.

HOME STREET



CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

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May 30, 1982

Dear Home Street Youth:

Just a note to let you know of the fun and exciting youth activities coming your way this Summer.

First - Youth Campout, July 1-4 at

Spruce Woods Provincial Park

A registration form is enclosed - note its due date: June 20. This is especially for you - the youth of Home Street Church - and your friends. We'll leave the church at 8:30 AM, July 1.

Second - Encounter '82, August 8-15 at

Bird's Hill Provincial Park

This is the Big One! Youth from all across Canada will be joining us for a terrific week. Camp leader will be Steve Mabry from Sacramento, California. If you attended the Anaheim Assembly last year, you may remember him as one of the youth leaders - the one with the guitar. Enclosed is further information on Encounter and an Encounter Registration form. Note its due date: June 30.

Again this year you have something great to work for. Bottles? Car washes? Whatever; it's time to begin. I'll be in touch.

In His Service,

  
Ray E. Trotter

Nathan, Robert

Journal for Josephine; New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 1943  
143p.

From May to September, the first year of America's participation in World War II, with Nathan serving as aobserver reporting aircraft, his and Josephine's friends and neighbors and their daily life. This is a simple diary of events, leavened with Nathan's quiet humor, and conveying the feeling of the average man's reactions to the news in wartime.

This is an interesting local account of life at the Cape, as lived by one family.



Nathan, Robert

Mia; New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 1970; (1970, Nathan)179p.

The dust jacket blurb gives an adequate summary of this story, but I add that it portrays the universe as eternal and is reminiscent of And Still She Wished for Company by Margaret Irwin. A widower novelist, writing his autobiography, falls in love with a spinster, lamed by a gunshot accident, who has never achieved her aim of experiencing the world, marriage, and children, and whose ghost of her girlhood haunts the novelist and offers herself as Mia to him, but who is invisible to anyone else.

The spinster is killed in a bus accident triggered by the ghostly girl who again shoots herself, leaving the old man to his memories, and the spinster still unfulfilled.

Although touching and philosophical as are many others of Nathan's books, this novel is pessimistic as to the changes in modern life and the outlook for the future. The narrator lives more in his past than in the present, and feels that his useful life has ended.

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"The Puppet Master"

Robert M. McBride + Company

New York, 1925 221 p.p.

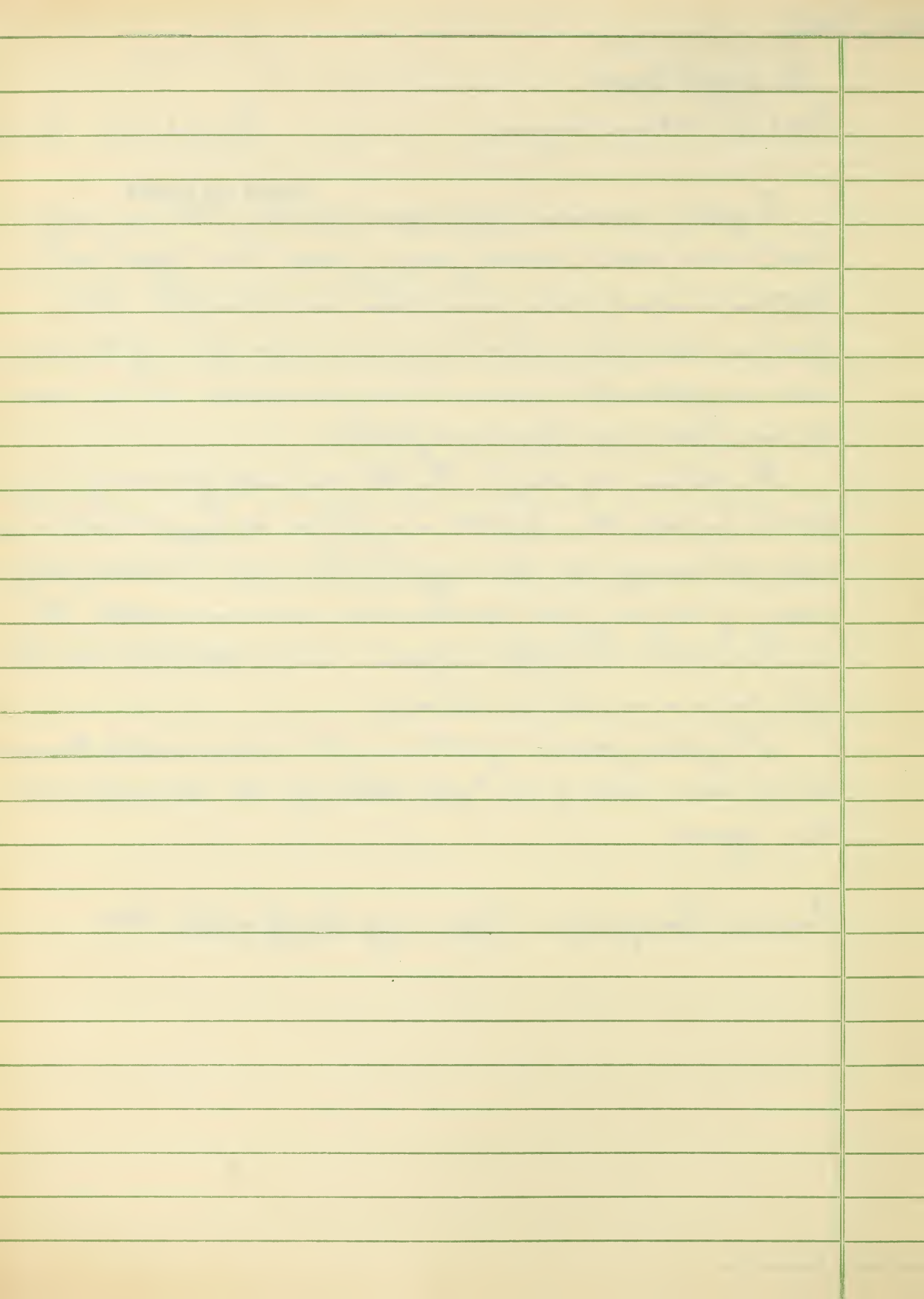
A gentle, whimsical, philosophical fantasy, this is really a short novel about a small group of people: the Puppet Master, a poet his assistant, and a young widow and her daughter. Their problems are illuminated and commented upon by the dolls who are gifted with movement and speech, and who are said to have their own lives and problems.

The plot is very slight: The little girl, wishing to marry her girl doll to a boy doll, obtains the latter as a gift from the puppet master and makes the arrangements. These suggest to her mother the desirability of marrying the young poet, and the wish is consummated. The incidental action is of little importance and involves the adventures of the dolls as well as the humans.

The philosophical reflections of the dolls and the humans are the main value of the book, although the characters all have appeal.

Cameron Classification: Profile: c, g, h, (a, f), c, (b, d). 17.4







Nathan, Robert

They Went On Together; New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 1941  
191p.

This is a very slender story of a family of refugees fleeing in wartime from their home. The mother, son and small daughter meet a girl who has lost her family; the son and the girl fall in love, but are separated temporarily from the mother and daughter; when they again meet, they get ready to go on in search of safety.

The sole purpose of the book appears to be to show how little the average person can do toward surviving a war that is waged without his having had anything to do with it.



Nathan, Robert

They Went On Together; New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 1941;  
(1941, Nathan) 191p.

This is a simple story of a mother and son and daughter; the boy about 8 years old, the girl 4, refugees from an unnamed invading army. They are joined by an orphan girl who earns the love of the boy, and is wounded near the end of the story, bringing home the message that innocent civilians are the victims of the warmongers.

The helplessness and incapacity of people forced from their homes by war is illustrated simply and effectively, but this is too slight a story to warrant its book length.



Exorcism Through the Ages; New York, Philosophical Library  
(1974, Publishers) 311p.

This symposium by several authors principally Catholic is a fair exposition of many viewpoints. The case histories are not all convincing and it is acknowledged that social beliefs often influenced the treatment of alleged possession cases. Sufficient actual cases are described, however, to contradict the view of Albert Reville, whose summary of the history of the devil takes up pages 217-258 of this book. It is an interesting historical account but so biased from the rationalistic viewpoint as to be untrustworthy regarding facts.

For instance, he says, on page 254 where he quotes the author Balthazar Bekker in whose book The Enchanted World 1691-1693 the following passage appeared: "'There is no witchcraft where there is no faith in it; do not believe in it, and it will cease to be....Get rid of all these silly old-wives' fables, and exercise yourselves in godliness". He adds "Here was true prophecy". Yet in one year during this decade, over 600 exorcisms were conducted in the United States, and these are not undertaken lightly.

And on page 237 he says: "When, at the present day, we observe closely those of our contemporaries who devote themselves to spiritualism, it is surprising to see how fertile their imagination becomes when they are busy in interpreting in favour of their hobby the most trifling and unimportant circumstances. The unlatching of half-closed doors, an insect describing arabesques in its flight, the fall of a badly-balanced article, the creaking of furniture at night-time, any one of these petty accidents suffices to give wing to their fancy. If we generalize such a mental state, by substituting faith in the incessant interventions of the devil for the harmless illusions of our spiritualist, we shall get a fair notion of what took place in the middle ages." Gratuitous misrepresentation like this of the proven phenomena of parapsychology casts doubt on both his veracity and his sceptical conclusions.

Although one chapter is devoted to quotation of Oesterreich on "The Genesis and Extinction of Possession" there are no quotations from Nevius, whose book is not mentioned in this volume, possibly because written by a Protestant, or unavailable to the Editor as is known that Oesterreich could not obtain a copy.

There is no index, and this book is less valuable than Nevius.

Chester D. Cuthbert  
December 15, 1997

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**FirstCity Trust**

Exorcism through the Ages; Illustrated; Secaucus, N. J.,  
The Citadel Press (1974, Philosophical Library) 311p.

This quality paperback is worth keeping for reference, but does not give as clear and comprehensive understanding as the symposium Exorcism: Fact not Fiction combined with The Devil's Bride: Exorcism Past and Present, edited and written, respectively, by Martin Ebon.

The chapter by Oesterreich at page 111 is merely an abbreviated version of the author's Chapter 4 of his book Possession and Exorcism, and the chapter by Robbins is a reprint of his entry on Exorcism from his Encyclopedia of Witchcraft and Demonology. It is possible that other chapters are merely reprinted from other sources.

The facts of exorcism and possession are real, but cannot be fully explained on the basis of our present knowledge of physics or psychology. That the Christian religion is involved so much I think is merely because English literature is written mainly in Christian countries; and the prevalence of the phenomena in other primitive and foreign societies is relatively unknown.

The complexity of the subject is so great that understanding is difficult, especially since so many of the phenomena seem to be impossible. The early superstitious beliefs merely confuse.

Fortunately, parapsychology is attempting scientific investigation of phenomena formerly considered mainly by religious personnel. Some answers to the mysterious may be found,

Chester D. Cuthbert  
june 29, 1998

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Neal, E. Virgil (A.M., LL.D.) & Charles S. Clark, M.A. (Editors)

Hypnotism and Hypnotic Suggestion: A Scientific Treatise on the Uses and Possibilities of Hypnotism and Allied Phenomena. by Thirty Authors; Rochester, New York, New York State Publishing Company; 5th Edition, 10th Thousand, (1900, publishers); Ill. 259p

This symposium illustrates the many aspects of hypnotism used in teaching and practise by the various authorities. Some go far afield from the practical aspects of the subject, into philosophy, sociology, animal psychology, and few restrict their essays to the scientific examination of hypnotic phenomena.

Yet the authorities familiar to me were Scrpiture, Yerkes, Sextus, Newbold, Hudson, Dessoir, Baldwin, Leuba, and I had seen others referred to in the literature.

This volume is of more importance as illustrating the extent and range of intellectual interest in hypnotism than specific instruction in its use. However, despite its lacking an index, this book can be useful for specific information.

Chester D. Cuthbert  
November 7, 2000



## Anthology

The Great Weird Stories; Edited by Arthur Neale; New  
York, Duffield & Company, 1929 3-409pp.

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I did not have time to read this book before selling it to Blitz Books. Apparently Boehnke had it at one time and it was sold through Bertrand Smith's "Acres of Books" in Cincinnati.



Nearing, H (omer) (C), Jr.

The Sinister Researches of C. P. Ransom; Garden City,  
New York, Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1954 217p.

Ransom and MacTate, two University professors, involve themselves in researches with the new Electronic Brain given the Electrical Engineering Department, in an effort to win money for themselves and for the University. Their efforts include four-dimensional time travel, voodoo, ancestral memory, and various other fantasy concepts, all told humorously and well.

Unfortunately, the humor is not adequate to its possibilities in the situations presented, and whether the mathematical conceptions are correctly presented, I do not know. There is not a sufficiently high standard of either story or idea to induce me to wish to re-read.

The Factitious Pentangle introduces Mars as Barsoom, and might be considered an associational item for a Burroughs collection.

Seven of the nine stories appeared in The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction.



Neely, Richard

The Walter Syndrome; New York, The McCall Publishing  
Company (1970) 211p.

Lambert Post, cruelly treated by his step-father and his mother as a small child, develops schizophrenia to the extent of a dual personality, a clever, smooth-talking, and masterful alter-ego named Charles Walter. Post is an advertisement solicitor for a newspaper, using the name of Charles Walter, thus assisting to maintain the alter-ego.

As Walter he is a sex-slayer of women, viewing them as betrayers of men. The book is written from the two points of view of the two personalities, plus the investigative reporter's Maury Ryan, and is very well done.

Although a study in abnormal psychology rather than a fantasy, I think this would qualify for a fantasy collection of books.





Neff, Mary K. (Compiler)

Symposium.

Personal Memoirs of H. P. Blavatsky; with 12 illustrations; Wheaton, Illinois, The Theosophical Publishing House (Quest Book, 1967), (Dutton, 1937); Appendices; Index; 323p.

This is an important contribution to the biographical information concerning Blavatsky, particularly the two chronological tables and the index and references. Much is quoted from theosophical writings, and from Olcott's Old Diary Leaves, and the compiler appears credulous about the psychic phenomena narrated.

The information that Blavatsky considered herself a dual personality, and was often unaware of the source of her information for her books, makes essential the thorough study of her personality.



Neil-Smith, Christopher

The Exorcist and the Possessed; New York, Pinnacle Books  
(#220482); (October, 1974); Notes; 145p.

The author had performed over 2000 exorcisms and the Notes prove him to have publicised the subject extensively. He is well known to the Reverend Dr. Donald Omand and the chief value of this book is his insistence that qualified analysis of every case is necessary before exorcism is undertaken because some are merely psychological, others spiritual, and some demonic.

Although the author acknowledges assistance in the writing of this book, it lacks the detailed treatment of individual cases and merely indicates the varied nature treated.

Chester D. Cuthbert  
April 26, 1998

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**FirstCity Trust**

Neilson, William

Mesmerism in its Relation to Health and Disease and the present state of Medicine; Edinburgh, Shepherd & Elliot; London, Hamilton, Adams & Co.; Belfast, Shepherd & Aitchison, 1855; Appendix 250p.

This book is not a textbook of instruction regarding how to use mesmerism. It is a detailed exposure of the prejudice of the medical Faculty against the use of mesmerism, and a summary of the benefits of its use.

Despite the time which has elapsed since this book appeared the use of pills has increased, and the use of hypnotism been neglected.

The fourth Appendix gives many examples of cures detailed in the 12 volumes of the Zoist, chosen only because short summaries could be used. More important cases were not used because they would have taken more space.

Although not a doctor, apparently, the author treated many people and invited witnesses for current cases. Like other of the pioneers, he was often ignored.

On page 230: Moreover, before etherization was discovered, Dr. Collyer, a MESMERIST, published a pamphlet in New York in 1843, in which he says that he had made trials of the inhalation of stimulating and narcotic vapours combined, in above twenty persons, with entire success, the unconsciousness lasting from half an hour to two hours. These experiments were the topic of conversation from one end of the United States to the other. Above a thousand copies of this pamphlet were sold.

I wonder if many copies of Neilson's book have survived its possible suppression by the Faculty.

Chester D. Cuthbert  
April 15, 2002



Nesbit, E., and Chesson, Hugh

Cymbeline, and Other Stories; Illustrated by Frances Brundage, M. Bowley, etc.; London, Paris, Berlin, New York, Raphael Tuck & Sons, Ltd. 64p.

Told with Nesbit's well-known economy of words, these tales from Shakespeare include "All's Well that Ends Well" and "Much Ado about Nothing".

These outlines are probably sufficient to enable anyone to decide whether the full versions are to his taste. I did not see anything but romantic involvements.



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Neufeld, John

Lisa, Bright and Dark: A Novel; Scarborough, Ontario,  
The New American Library of Canada Limited (Signet #T4387),  
Second Printing, November, 1971, (1969, S. G. Phillips, Inc.)  
143p.

This short novel tells of the attempt to draw attention to the approaching insanity of a classmate by three young schoolgirls. Told in the first person by a 15-year-old, it details the alternating elation and depression moods of the girl; the incapable school counselor; the wealthy parents who cannot take time to notice the problem; the teachers who can see a problem but do not realize that they must do something about it; the calling in of a handsome young psychiatrist by one of the girls who had herself undergone mental illness; and the final treatment and recovery of the girl.

While reading this book, I realized that in all probability I would have reacted similarly to the parents if my children had shown signs of illness, simply because I would not have been aware of anything more than strange behavior.

This is likely to alert parents and educate them.



Neumann, Alfred

The Deuce; Translated by Huntley Paterson; London,  
William Heinemann Limited (1928) 422p.

This is probably the best historical novel I have read.

Oliver Necker the barber of Ghent is content to work behind the scenes, with a shrewd and intelligent comprehension of political and social values, and a talent for intrigue. He is a descendant of a family of rogues and vagabonds who manage nevertheless to maintain a respected status, even though the women of the family are usually prostitutes. Their red hair is a badge. Oliver becomes a magician, a tool of aristocrats and prelates, and a traveller; marries a girl much younger than himself, Anne Rym, sister of his brother Henryk's wife, and is truly in love with her.

Oliver is called "The Devil" because of his power over others, but meets his match in Louis XI, King of France. So akin are they that each feels himself becoming a part of the other, closer than brothers, almost dual identities. Because of this mental and emotional kinship, Louis also falls in love with Anne, and Oliver renounces his wife to the King, feeling that the King loves her as himself. Tempted to betray the King, Oliver intrigues against him, but manages to regain his position as trusted adviser by turning the intrigue to favor the King.

As the King's chamberlain, Oliver advises him to resume marital relations with Queen Charlotte, these having lapsed for fifteen years after she had borne him five children, none of whom could rule, some having died. A Dauphin is born, and Louis poisons his weak brother Charles who would otherwise have succeeded to the Valois throne. Oliver's wife Anne, knowing that the King truly loved her and would find it difficult to resume relations with Charlotte, poisons herself to help the King turn his amorous attentions elsewhere. Ultimately Anne dies, leaving both Oliver and the King to seek solace from one another.

Loving the King, Oliver and his henchman become hated tyrants in order to divert the wrath of the people to themselves and strengthen the love of the people for the king. The final scene is of Oliver and his man Daniel Bart being hanged as scapegoats for the King, after the King's own death.

Several extended sections of the book cover the main events in the lives of the protagonists. These are very well written, and the power and sophistication of the book make it well worth a permanent place in any good library.

Note: Published in the U. S. as "The Devil".



Neumann, Alfred

The Devil; Translated from the German by Huntley Paterson; New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 1928 368p.

This is the American title of the book published in England as "The Deuce", which see for my notes.





Neumann, Alfred

Strange Conquest; New York, Ballantine Books (#88);  
Translated from the German *Der Pakt* by Ransom T. Taylor  
(1954, Publishers) 184p.  
(English title: Look Upon This Man different version.

This is a fictionized biography of William Walker, self-appointed President of Lower California, dictator of Nicaragua, a small, slender man of ruthless political ambition who was privately in love with a deaf-mute and although attracted to women was afraid of involvement with them sexually. The Encyclopedia Britannica article about him confirms that he was a doctor, a lawyer, a politician and a military genius, and was executed at the age of 36.

The author vividly portrays Walker and his effect on his associates, his popular appeal, his reputation as an abolitionist which he reversed when offered half a million dollars by the southern states to re-introduce slavery in Nicaragua, and his use of cholera to reduce the ranks of his military opponents.

This, like the author's The Devil, is a notable historical portrayal of a period and a character, and confirms my opinion of his importance based on the other book named. I should read as soon as possible the other books I have.

Walker could not tolerate the touch of other humans and seems to have been totally isolated from close human relationships, failing even to keep in touch with his mother, a sick woman. Yet he inspired loyalty, admiration and fear in the people who recognized his dedication to his aims.

Certainly it is worthwhile to read other sources for information about Walker, a most unusual man.





Nevill, Ralph

Echoes Old and New; 8 illustrations; London, Chatto & Windus  
1919; Index, 308p.

The author gives me the impression that he was well-read, a genial and tolerant sophisticate who accepted human nature as it is and declared that morality could not be legislated.

The important matters discussed in these essays relate to Cyrano de Bergerac, Cagliostro, Gorani (who seems to have lived as Casanova did), Casanova, **Thomas Dermody** (who should be compared to Chatterton), La Paiva (p.175 like Lola Montez), and on page 259 he mentions the extraordinary memory of General Charratier who repeated the whole contents of a newspaper.

He deplored the movement of population from farms to cities and ridiculed the efforts of reformers because human nature could not change.

He said that Casanova was acquainted with the Chevalier d'Éon and considered her a woman.

Although biased, there is much common sense in this book. He accepted the sowing of wild oats and the existence of the demi-monde, saying that men settled down to good citizenship in later life.

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Neville, Derek

Bright Morrow; London, John Crowther, Ltd. (1947) 157p.

William Landon has a mystical experience, following which he is able to demonstrate that he can surround himself with a force field extendible at will and impervious to any attack, thus making it possible for him to prevent war. He notifies the British Government, but insists that he will make this power and himself available only at great need.

Three friends, Julian Thorpe, Parsons and Barton, pool their resources to establish a newspaper The Contender to advocate Landon and his mission. Landon is a healer as well as a power, but treats only hopeless cases, performing miraculous cures, and saying that less serious cases will cure themselves by following the example he teaches. His mystical view is that peace must be established in the world by aiming for constructive social changes, and abolishing preparation for war.

The oppressed (Desserpo) are led by Eturb (Brute), and work long days under slave conditions, seeking the means to rebel against the upper world. They have been driven underground by the wrong social policies and economic deprivation of the upper world. Eturb broadcasts threats and hate; the upper world fears but tries to ignore him.

The Contender thrives and people come to believe more and more in Landon as a new Messiah. The Government tries to outlaw the paper, but the people strike and force the lifting of the ban. Ultimately, the Government gives in to Landon's views, and as the people come more under Landon's influence, they approach the Desserpo openly and without arms, extending the hand of friendship. Eturb commits suicide; he fears that force is impotent, because people would not approach openly if they feared him.

Having established his aim, Landon disappears; his disciples find in themselves a measure of his vision, and are able to continue without him.

This is a very well-written and idealistic account of a new Messiah. It is too simplified to carry conviction, but its aim is noble and inspiring. A good book.



Nevius, John L. (D.D.)

Demon Possession and Allied Themes, Being an Inductive Study of Phenomena of Our Own Times; with an Introduction by Rev. F. F. Ellinwood, D.D., with an index, bibliographical, Biblical, Pathological, and General; Chicago/New York/Toronto, Fleming H. Revell Company (1894, Publishers) 482p.

It was not until about two years ago that I became convinced that human personality can exist independently of a body, so although I have had this book for over fifty years, I did not feel qualified to assess it. This is a great book by a man well qualified to produce it, with so useful indexes as to qualify it to be a textbook.

The author was a missionary in China, but well read in every category of knowledge necessary for him to pronounce in favor of the existence of spiritual entities termed demons which possessed many Chinese individuals. He provides comparable cases from the literature relating to other nations and cultures, affirms the Biblical accounts of possession, and insists that these exist also in modern times.

Giving a fair analysis of E. B. Tylor's views from Primitive Culture, he points out that although Tylor concluded his discussion of possession by accepting the recent pathological explanation, he did not explain exactly what this was nor did it better elucidate the problem than the simple acceptance of the belief in spirit possession.

The differing and ignorant views of modern psychiatry confirm that only "scientific" fashion dictates the denial of the possession hypothesis. I have read innumerable accounts of murders committed by people who deny that they were aware of their actions which led to the murder of their victims. These confirm what Nevius wrote concerning victims of possession who had no memory of what transpired while they were possessed.

That the invasion of humans by entities desiring to enjoy the possession of material bodies is not only possible but actual, I believe is confirmed by accounts of the gods of Haiti and by the demonstrations of spirit mediums.

This book is a classic and well worth reprinting today.

Chester D. Cuthbert  
December 13, 1997

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Newall, Venetia

The Encyclopedia of Witchcraft & Magic; Introduction by Richard M. Dorson; New York, The Dial Press, 1974; Illustrated; (1974, author); Bibliography; Index 191p.

This is a well-researched and surprisingly informative volume, mentioning, for instance, cases of poltergeist disturbances new to me, and with biographical information on people important in the history of the subjects.

In addition to the alphabetized arrangement, the index provides access to information, and the illustrations are well-chosen.

I read the book from cover to cover, which I have not done with Robbins's Encyclopedia, having used it only as a reference for individual subjects. The point of view is that of a folklorist who found Montague Summers a credulous acceptor of the phenomena.





Newhorn, Paula

Primal Sensuality: New Horizons and Explorations for Lovers; New York, G. P. Putnam's Sons (1973, Publishers) 284p

When I started reading this book I thought it was written as an assertion of women's rights to a free sexual life. Some chapters of the book were crudely expressed and seemed to support the author's personal preference for bodily sensation, both sexual and physical generally.

Towards the end of the book, however, although emphasis was on the sexual technique desired to bring about maximum enjoyment, there are very practical and sensible ideas about communication between lovers, and procedures to cure sexual dysfunction. I was favorably impressed, even though my own experience does not extend to many of the practices described.

It appears, however, that the author's teaching of her ideas over a period of ten years demonstrates that many folks have felt a need to improve their sensory lives, and ignoring her ideas entirely would be foolish. Using the book with a critical caution could be beneficial.



Newman, Bernard

The Flying Saucer; London, Victor Gollancz Ltd; 1948  
(Newman) 250p.

Narrating this story in the first person, Newman, Papa Pontivy, and the world's greatest scientist Drummond concoct a hoax to convince the world that it is being invaded by the Martians. Drummond invents machines with rays to nullify the electrical motors of cars and trucks, a protonic bomb which causes organic materials like forests to disintegrate, rockets of materials unknown to earth's science, and a sort of homunculus as a fraudulent Martian.

With the assistance of an archeological linguistics expert, a Martian language and decoding is arranged so that messages can be interpreted to the world. The Martians first demand all earth's gold, saying that they need it to cure "a wasting disease". Pontivy arranges the financing of Newman and Drummond by robbing a war-profiteer, who goes to South American and engineers the investigation of Pontivy's scheme by means of a beautiful woman spy. Pontivy overcomes her, and causes the death of the profiteer, robbing him further of jewels to support her and to finance Drummond's further plans.

The purpose of the exercise is to unite the world against a common enemy, so that nationalism and wars on earth will be eliminated. Newman shows an astonishing grasp of world affairs, and apparently tried to make an exhaustive research into flying saucers, which he hints may be collective hallucination, or the result of hoaxes such as this book details. He is familiar with the British Interplanetary Society, with the American Rocket Society, and with other societies, both scientific and occult, and probably subscribes to clipping services for his data.

This is a practical and interesting book, but is rather cynical about the mess the world is in, and apparently Newman's view is that the end justifies the means. Although it would be nice to keep this book for reference, I shall pass it along to Ed Sinkovits if he does not already have a copy.



Newman, Bernard

The Mussolini Murder Plot; New York, Hillman-Curl, Inc.  
1939 282p.

Newman tells this story in the first person, about the Italian Dictator being threatened with death if he invaded Abyssinia. Feeling that Mussolini would become a martyr if the threat were implemented, Newman tried to foil the plot and fell in love with Margaret Hay, a member of the League of International Amity which made the threat.

Discovering details of the plot, Newman succeeds twice in saving Mussolini's life, then hears that the League has decided to kidnap Mussolini and hold him for ransom, the ransom being a pledge not to invade Abyssinia. An actor, Newman is coached by a Russian spy Col. Victor Kaledin in Mussolini's personality and characteristics, impersonates the Dictator, and permits himself to be kidnapped in his place. Margaret exposes him to her fellow-intriguers, but aside from their leader, who goes mad and tries to assassinate Mussolini, they finally agree with Newman that the Dictator should not be made a martyr, and try to avoid the killing. Newman saves Mussolini again, and the book ends with Newman and Margaret in love.

This appears to be a spy-thriller enacted under the authentic historical and political setting of its time, and whether Newman played any part in the action is uncertain.

The story is about average, and there is in it nothing of permanent value to me.



Newman, Bernard

Shoot!; London, Victor Gollancz Ltd, 1950

241p.

I merely skimmed this novel; it appears to forecast in international terms a third world war, possibly started by Bob Hope (called Bob Glory) being among passengers in a plane shot down in Europe.

Newman humanizes the story by taking family situations in various countries, but these are so ordinary that I could not get interested in them, and his usual methods of portraying the national manoeuvres did not appear to offer anything different from others of his novels.

In the conclusion he portrays Sam Goldwyn under a different name reproducing the book as a picture as if from a scenario, if my impression is correct. The book ends with a report that Bob Glory has been shot down, to presumably add prophetic importance to the story.

I shall try to remember to ask Ed Sinkovits his opinion.







Newman, Bernard

The Wishful Think; London, Robert Hale Limited (1954)  
192p.

I read this book some years ago, but do not have any vivid recollection of the story.

I copy this from the book's blurb:

Malenkov, now master of Russia, is himself rumoured to be ill; and from the struggle for succession emerges an almost unknown, Granitov. But in England is a man who, through Extra-Sensory Perception of Piddington quality, is remarkably receptive to Granitov's thoughts. Time after time the West is able to anticipate his moves; and in the confusion resulting from his final failure emerges the pattern of the break-up of Russian hegemony.

Made the more actual by the inclusion of real people, this story is enormously exciting.



Newman, Peter C.

Bronfman Dynasty: The Rothschilds of the New World;  
Toronto, McClelland and Stewart (1978, Newman); Appendices;  
Index 318p.

The earlier part of this book, describing how the Sam Bronfman-led Jewish family supplied smugglers with booze, is more interesting than the later generation who inherited his empire; but this is an important book showing how it is possible to build up a financial conglomerate.

Edward and Peter, sons of Allan, appear to have developed independently of Edgar and Charles who are the Montreal Seagram controllers; but both branches of the family are reclusive, neurotic, to some extent gifted, but their wealth has attracted talent and expert advice, and it seems to me that this is what has enabled them to expand as they have.

Once established, the dynasty has apparently been aware that quality and fairness to shareholders are both important; and my own beneficial dealings with the Edper branch confirms this impression. I am somewhat concerned that transfers of wealth from one subsidiary to another may affect minority shareholders, so have some reservations about investment in future.



Newman, Peter C.

Company of Adventurers: Volume I; Markham, Ontario,  
Penguin Books Canada Ltd. (1985, Power Reporting Limited) .  
Illustrated; Appendices; Index 413p.

Originally published at \$25.00, with price reduced to \$18.75 shortly after reviews appeared, this is a sumptuous volume, interesting, but covering only until the death of Rae near the end of the 19th century, excepting references incidentally made to more recent company history, such as, on Page 343 the statement that Ken Thomson owned 76.4% of the issued shares as of June 30th, 1985.

Planned originally as a 2-Volume work, Newman now says several volumes, so there will be probably at least three.

A special chapter on the natural history of the beaver, and one on the Orkneyemen (Oradians), sometimes indicate an unbalanced and biassed study of the Company and its influence on Canadian history, but future volumes may correct this imbalance.

The record of dividends appendix is interesting, and the history of the Company does indicate that lean years are made up when fortunes improve.

Coincidentally with my finishing the reading of this book came a letter from HBC indicating a rights issue to be declared when regulatory consent is received.



Newton, A. Edward

The Amenities of Book-Collecting and Kindred Affections Illustrated; Boston, The Atlantic Monthly Press (5th Impression, March, 1924 (August, 1918, Newton); Index 373p.

The author's style is pleasant, cultured and urbane, giving his views on the subject those of a medium-wealthy collector whose genuine interest in the period of Johnson and Boswell an infectious attraction. He did not compete with millionaires, but still paid much higher prices for his collection than I could consider.

The useful index did not appear in the first edition.







Newton, A. Edward

A Magnificent Farce and Other Diversions of a Book-Collector; Illustrated; Boston, The Atlantic Monthly Press (1921, Newton) (Third Impression, October, 1921; Index 267p.

This second book by Newton contains material on Blake and Whitman, and much follow-up material on Johnson and Boswell, as well as suggestions for booksellers and publishers. It has much incidental information which is important background material for collectors, particularly the large and learned book dealers whose catalogues are collectors' items in themselves.



The One True Man; Toronto, McClelland and Stewart Limited  
(1963) 196p.

In the year 427 B.C., a Samothracian accompanies an expedition to Mexico where the Phoenicians have established a city called New Gades. The Ulmeca far outnumber the invaders, but accept slavery because of mythological tradition about white gods. Surviving a shipwreck, Suniaton finds himself accompanied by a negress Taanach and a warrior Acherbas who is ready to take over the command which is slipping from the grasp of his father. Both men become lovers of Taanach, but Acherbas triumphs, mainly because Suniaton has fallen in love with an Ulmeca Princess Humming-Bird.

Siding with an intellectual who warns Acherbas that the natives must be treated as equals rather than slaves or they will revolt, Suniaton is contemptuously appointed ambassador to the Ulmeca by Acherbas. Humming-Bird helps Suniaton to escape from her people and from his rival for her affections, but Acherbas refuses to consider Suniaton's advice, and Taanach kills Humming-Bird. Suniaton survives, but more than half-mad he cuts off Humming-Bird's head and carries it to a far cave where he lives his life out as a hermit.

Aside from its possible interest as a reconstruction of the life in Mexico of its day, this novel is of little interest in a fantasy collection. Only by virtue of its pre-historic setting can it be considered as fantasy.









Nichols, Leigh

Shadowfires; New York, Avon Books (#75216), (1987,  
Nkui, Inc.), (First Avon Printing, February, 1987 436p.

Designated "Novel" on the spine of this paperback; "A  
Novel of Unrelenting Terror" on the front cover; I would  
classify it as Science Fiction/Horror.

Eric Leben is a millionaire genius geneticist who en-  
lists government financial aid for research into prolonging  
life. He is obsessed with maintaining his own youth, even  
becoming a pedophile in seeking out young girls in the be-  
lief that he can draw their youthful energy vampire-like to  
supplement the gene-altering, but untested, drugs he has ab-  
sorbed into his own tissues. He fears death because he was  
abused as a child by an uncle he later killed, and believed  
his uncle was awaiting him in hell to further torture him.

Rebelling against her husband's obsessive and cruel be-  
havior, Rachael institutes proceedings for divorce, accepting  
a settlement financially of a fraction of her right; this is  
seen to be a put-down by Eric, who, in a rage, leaves the law-  
yers' office and is killed by a garbage truck. Eric's body  
disappears from the morgue, and Rachael realizes that he has  
revived, becoming a zombie or a mutant because of his altered  
genes.

The Federal Government and the local police are involved  
because of the importance of the research, and because two  
young girls are murdered violently. Rachael has fallen in  
love with a Vietnam veteran who has developed a real estate  
business and adopted his boyhood love for hobbies; he is the  
intended victim of a Federal Agent, also a veteran, who seeks  
revenge for Ben's having exposed his crooked dealings while in  
uniform.

Eric becomes a monster almost indestructible; the story  
becomes a "chase and escape" adventure told from the "author  
omniscient" point of view. The several sub-plots are treated  
simultaneously so that the action is developed by cliffhanger  
effects.

Although this novel is reasonably well-written, and the  
science of genetics may possibly be outlined as it may be in  
future exercised, I found it rather slow reading. The violence  
and sex is explicit and unpleasant; Eric as Frankenstein-mon-  
ster is well portrayed; but the sensationalism detracts from  
the overall effect. It does, however, qualify as science fic-  
tion, and I am rather surprised that it has been marketed as a  
"Novel".

## FELLOWSHIP NEWS

Fellowship of Christian Churches  
in Western Canada  
Box 96, Yellow Grass, Sask. S0G 5J0

Doris M. Johnstone  
Co-ordinator

January, 1976

### HAPPY NEW YEAR

"And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: 'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.' And he replied, 'Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light, and safer than a known way.' So I went forth, and finding the hand of God trod gladly into the night. And he led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East." - Minnie Louise Haskins

May the Lord bless you and keep you, in joy or in sorrow, throughout the year 1976.

*Doris Johnstone*

### MR. & MRS. COURTNEY SWANDER

Mr. and Mrs. Swander will be visiting churches in western Canada during the month of January. So that you may know where they will be and when, here is their itinerary.

Home Street .....	January	5 & 6
Regina Avenue .....	"	7 & 8
Yellow Grass .....	"	9
Glenmore .....	"	10 & 11
Hanna .....		12 & 13
Parkland .....		14 & 15
McKernan )		
First Christian ) .....		16 to 18

Our January weather can be very unfriendly. I hope you will counteract this with the warmth of your welcome so that Mr. and Mrs. Swander will enjoy their visit with us.



Nichols, Robert

Fantastica: Being The Smile of the Sphinx and Other Tales of Imagination; with a foreword by John Masefield; New York, The Macmillan Company, 1923; xii plus 375p.

### Contents

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Sir Perseus and the Fair Andromeda	67
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Masefield's foreword summarizes well the purport of the book, the stories being intellectual rather than emotional fantasy, and consequently of limited popular appeal.

#1 tells of a princess who sets her lovers the task of unriddling the secret of the sphinx's smile, and of one lover who spent his life at the task only to find that his place had been taken by a younger man.

#2 tells of a knight rescuing Andromeda from a monster, but subsequently ignoring her in favor of another girl. A hideous dwarf frees Andromeda, but is killed by her, and she ultimately returns to her monster, finding his devotion now to her liking in preference to the knight's disdain.

#4 tells of a synthetic religion built by powerful individuals whose purpose is to fool the masses into agreeing to their continued rule. The Protagonist is revealed as the Christ, come a second time only to be crucified again; and the opponent of the scheme is the Wandering Jew, under the name of Dr. Ahasuerus, who acknowledges the Protagonist's divinity and begs remission of the curse of immortality, but is finally reduced to accepting himself as the Devil and the essence of unbelief and evil.

In his Epilogue, Nichols affirms his faith in socialism and his despair of persuading those in power to use it for the benefit of mankind. He pins his faith on American use of Mutual Aid, rather than on British imperialism; and says that his stories are myth-making exercises in the artistic expression of truth.

This book has permanent value.



Nicholson, Norman

H. G. Wells; London, Arthur Barker Ltd. (1950, 1957); Bibliography; Index 125p.

After a short biographical chapter the remainder of this book is devoted to studies of his books. Useful for that purpose, it should be retained for reference.

Chester D. Cuthbert  
December 27, 2004



Nida, William Lewis

Ab, the Cave Man: A Story of the Time of the Stone Age;  
Adapted for Young Readers from the Story of Ab; Illustrated  
by Fred Stearns; New York, Grosset & Dunlap (1911, 1918 Nida)  
166p.

Having read the book by Stanley Waterloo, I did not  
take the time to read this children's version, but am keeping  
the book for reference.



Niemand, Jasper

Letters that Have Helped Me, Compiled by: Reprinted  
from "The Path"; Sixth Edition; New York, The Theosophical  
Publishing Co., of New York, 1911 (William Q. Judge, 1891)  
90 p.

Dedicated to "Z. L. Z." author of the letters and ostensibly a "Master", this is a compilation of instructional missives with notes by the recipient. Well-written, these give basic information on the role of the "Masters" as distinct from the Theosophical Society. The indication is that the Society is an exoteric body merely formulating the teachings; and has no connection with the Masters who reveal themselves to the students, usually only after a probationary period of seven years, when the students are ready.

This book is a little more advanced than the primers of Theosophy, and fairly interesting.





Nin, Anais

Delta of Venus: Erotica; New York, Bantam Books, Inc.  
(#11470), (June, 1978, 6th ptg), (1969, Nin) 269p.

These are short to novelette length stories of women's sexual adventures, originally written at \$1.00 per type-written page for a "collector" who represented that he was buying for an old man, but Nin was suspicious that he was buying for his own interest. She admits that many stories were based on books like the Kama Sutra, and I suspect that Casanova's Memoirs inspired several of the stories, as they repeat incidents from that source.

Surprisingly well written for this type of material, the stories indicate sexual licence in Paris of the '30's, and Nin was apparently acquainted with prostitutes, or may perhaps have had experiences herself. The narrow view is typical of pornographic writing, with only hints of the bad effects of excessive sexual indulgence. Aberrations and perversions are described clinically, and as far as my reading can confirm, accurately.

Nin indicates that she was conscious of being the first woman writer of pornographic material, and was trying to express the female point of view.



Niven, Larry

The Magic Goes Away; Cover by Boris; Illustrated by Esteban Maroto; New York, Ace Books (#51544 \$4.95), (1978, Niven) 213p.

Contents

1. The Magic Goes Away	Larry Niven	1
2. About Boris Vallejo/About Esteban Maroto		193
3. The Mana Crisis, An Appreciation	Sandra Miesel	194
4. About Larry Niven		213

This sword and sorcery novel is an attempt at logical and consistent fantasy, accepting wondrous concepts as ordinary in terms of their setting.

Orolandes, a barbarian swordsman, has killed many, and has brought about the fall of Atlantis. Seeking relief from his guilt, he joins magicians The Warlock, Piranther, and Clubfoot, with the revived skull of Wavyhill, and the witch Mirandee, in their efforts to conserve and use the mana or magic-power which has been depleted regionally, and to resuscitate and control the World-Worm which has Roze-Kattee (Eros-Kali) in its cheek and impotent to influence the barbarian world.

The wanderings and adventures of the group are almost divorced from the sense of wonder which such a quest should entail. The romantic interlude between Orolandes and Mirandee is doomed because Mirandee is older and of a different nature from the mundane warrior Orolandes; but it is helpful to both of them in giving them pleasure and release from the tensions of their existence.

It is difficult to see, in the lives of the magicians, any value to them in their powers, beyond that of survival. Even the search for and conservation of mana is solely to that end.

The Miesel essay is helpful in comparing the fantasy worlds of various writers in the field.

Although this book is probably valuable to a collector of Niven's work, I do not consider it to be helpful to my view.



Noble, John Wesley; and Averbuch, Bernard

Never Plead Guilty: The Story of Jake Ehrlich; New York, Farrar, Strauss and Cudahy (1955, Authors) 306p.

Presented in four parts, the first and last deal with Jake's life and philosophy, with occasional references to cases, while the bulk of the book details individual cases. Probably the case of Alfred Leonard Cline, commencing on page 205, is the one most often mentioned in other books; but Jake handled so many cases involving important people that this book is interesting all through.

It should be retained for reference.

See Craig Rice: 45 Murderers, re Cline.





Nolan, William F.

Alien Horizons; New York, Pocket Books (1974, Nolan) 191p

Bill sent me an inscribed and autographed copy of this latest book of his, which includes an autobiographical introduction and 19 fantasies.

I wonder if it is merely coincidence that of all these items I liked best the earliest The Joy of Living. It seems to convey genuine feeling, and reminded me strongly of the first story I ever read about an artificial woman The Future Eve which ran serially in the Argosy All-Story Weekly in the late '20's. Bill has made his "mechanicals" almost too human to be imaginatively acceptable, but this was a necessary element in view of the conclusion of the story.

All the other items are competently executed, modern examples of fast-paced story-telling. The writing is expert, economical and colloquial. But in spite of Bill's saying in his introduction "I hope you will enjoy these nineteen parts of myself", my feeling is that he has succeeded in conveying only things and ideas that have interested him, and not that essence of his own personality which flavors the work of Faust, Merritt, Wertenbaker, Blackwood, Lovecraft, Dunsany, and Jeffery Farnol. In short, I feel I know of many things which Bill has found to occupy his attention during the past twenty years, but don't know anything more about him than I did on the basis of our original correspondence 25 years ago.

I admire Bill's ability to portray the contemporary writer's view of the literary scene and some of the problems being surveyed by modern science fiction writers, despite his apparent lack of detailed scientific knowledge. He sees the world quite clearly as it is, and describes it adequately as a reporter. But he is more expert at the technique of story-telling than he is at understanding and portraying people.

His ideas are expressed carefully and fully, and he has Jack London's economy in his conclusions. Despite his breezy enthusiasm in narration, hard work goes into each composition, and plenty of brain-work.

I hope to see his book about Dashiell Hammett. If it is successful in helping me to understand my own liking for Hammett and his work, I may feel that Bill's prime field is for interpretation of his enthusiasms.

It is unfortunate that the publishers made the error of "Kahil" in place of Cahill in the second paragraph of their blurb for this book.





Nolan, William F.

Dashiell Hammett: A Casebook; Santa Barbara, McNally & Loftin (1969); Checklist, Bibliography, Index 189p.

Bill sent me an inscribed and autographed copy of this book; and in advance of reading it I wrote him that it would be treasured.

The excellent index makes unnecessary any detailed notes, but if Bill had done nothing whatever but this book, I would consider his life well-spent. Handicapped because of lack of access to the Hammett papers controlled by Lillian Hellman, he has apparently used every scrap of information he could locate about Hammett in his effort to portray a tormented life. Now I have a basis on which to ponder many of the facets of Hammett's writing which puzzled me.

Likely the key passage to understanding is Bill's quote on page 63 from Kenneth Millar: The bird's lack of value implies Hammett's final comment on the inadequacy and superficiality of Spade's life and ours.

The Checklist has disclosed to me the existence of books by Hammett which I did not know existed.

Bill's memorial to Hammett is a controlled, respectful and careful compilation of the available clues to the secret of his life. Miss Hellman's reluctance to disclose what she must know appears to be like Mrs. Faust's in connection with Max Brand. What neither of these women appears to understand is that the achievement of their men so far transcends their failures that no fact of their lives can destroy it. Unless their reticence is from fear that disclosure would seriously affect the lives of persons still living, why should they be silent? I realize that such a danger is very real, but only because of the sham which custom imposes. Miss Hellman's own views have been clearly expressed in her introduction to The Big Knockover, so she appears to feel that "to know all is to forgive all"; but perhaps she distrusts the reactions of other people.

This book belongs permanently in the library of anyone interested in Hammett or in Bill Nolan.



Nolan, William F.

Hemingway: Last Days of the Lion: including Now Never  
There (a poem) and Hemingway: A Biographical Checklist; Santa  
Barbara, Capra Press, 1974; Photo front. 38p.

#24 of the Capra Chapbook Series, this short tribute to its subject shows that despite his sophistication Bill still has a capacity for hero-worship. The Checklist proves that he has read carefully all the available biographical information; no further proof is necessary of his devotion.

This, and his book on Hammett, renew the faith I had in Bill as a boy whose enthusiasms and energy would take him to the top. His success has already been demonstrated; but on the basis of his fiction I feared that his fundamental values had altered. Now I know that the stuff is still there, and there is no need for me to do more than try to explain why he and I differ so radically in our philosophy of life.

I am returning the book to Bill at his request, but I am sure that a single reading of it has done for me all the good that is necessary.

Note for Bill: The only book of Hemingway's that I have read is "Across the River and into the Trees". As you will understand after you read my letter, it had little appeal for me; although I have a number of books by him, I was never impelled to try him again. Now that I understand your view, or at least think I understand it, I may read some more of him. After all, I like Hammett, even without understanding him as much as I'd like. Didn't you say somewhere that Hemingway despised people like me? I don't blame him for doing so. But did he have enough human sympathy to make the effort to understand people like me?



Nolan, William F.

Impact-20; New York, Paperback Library, Inc. (52-971)  
(2nd Ptg., June, 1966), (Nov., 1963, Publishers) 158p.

Some of the stories published in this collection were reprinted in the more recent Alien Horizons, an autographed copy of which Bill sent me.

The stories which are primarily crime or car racing are not of particular interest to me, but these are often expert commercial short stories. Having now read two volumes of his short stories, it is clear that many of his themes and incidents are repetitious, and these are again resorted to in his novel Space for Hire. This is difficult to avoid when an author aims for frequent publication, and is simply good business apart from the danger that his readers may give up their reading of him on the ground that he has nothing new to offer. Bill's stories are never dull, however, and his colloquial style may appeal to a great many readers who are reading for pastime and not looking for depth or originality. What Bill offers is entertainment, and even if some readers tire, there are always newcomers to the field who will sample him.

Craftsmanship and a good direct writing style attract attention and maintain interest, but the reader is inclined to be amused or repelled by his characters, rather than be in sympathy with them or identify with them. The derivation of his hard-boiled crooks and private eyes, particularly in his spoofing parodies, is so apparent that I find it hard to give the stories any acceptance of possibility or reality. To me, good fantasy leaves me with the feeling of strangeness, but also with the ~~thought~~ thought "after all, I can't think of any reason why it may not be possible".

I am far more impressed by Bill's craftsmanship than I am by his material, and he succeeds in the prime requisite of the fiction writer: to entertain.





Nolan, William F., and Johnson, George Clayton

Logan's Run; New York, Dell Publishing Co., Inc. (#4933,  
March, 1969 (Authors, 1967, The Dial Press, Inc.) 189p.

Overpopulation has been limited by a rule that no one can live past the age of 21. A palm flower which changes its color with the seven year cell-cycle makes it impossible to conceal one's age; a flickering light gives warning of the final change to black at which stage the Deep Sleep operative hunts down anyone who does not volunteer himself for death.

Logan is a D.S. Armed with a special six-gun which is powered with six degrees of control after hitting the target, he is an assassin. As the story begins he is about to begin his own Lastday. He chases the twin brother of the girl who later becomes his own companion, into the hands of a wild gang of youths who take a drug called Muscle which speeds their bodies so that they can out-manoeuvre slower moving people, and they tear him to pieces.

After spending some time in a pleasure palace for relaxation, Logan meets Jessica, sister of his earlier quarry, and together they try to escape death. Entering a city beneath the sea, which is fighting against the entry of the ocean, they overcome its perils; then are faced with arctic hazards; and finally enter a man-made mountain. Ultimately they find that their pursuer Francis is a mask for Ballard, an older man who has escaped death because of a malfunction of his palm flower; he tells them that the Sanctuary they seek is Argos, an abandoned space station near Mars, and that they must go to Darkside on the Moon for takeoff.

Taken from their parents in infancy, children are brought up in special training schools, and any missing factors of home life are supposed to be substituted by sensations derived from special rooms, pleasure palaces, and other artificial means. Since all life experience must be crammed into 21 years, precocious activity characterizes many of the youths and even young children.

Being primarily a "chase" story, there is little depth of consideration given to the portrayal of life in the 32nd century; and even the escape conclusion leaves the reader wondering what possible value life would continue to hold for the principal characters. Even the pleasures described are permeated by the fear of death which must come soon; frenetic activity, sex, drugs, sensational foods and drink, are all on a physical plane which must be temporary.

Like the existence he portrays, Bill has written the tale in terse, economical prose. And because he has given people no purpose in surviving, the fact that his principal characters do survive has little meaning or importance; and his novel is merely sensational rather than important. As entertainment, it is adequate and interesting; but the human race must be given some reason for existing if it is to be portrayed significantly, and Bill gives no reason. Possibly he can see none, and it may be that his style of writing, which concentrates on sensation, speed of action, and incident, is the style which is suitable to the future if it has lost faith in any permanent values.





Nolan, William F.

Logan's World; New York, Toronto, London, Bantam Books  
(#11418), (December, 1977, Nolan) 149p.

Bill Nolan sent me this inscribed and autographed copy of his sequel to Logan's Run, and despite my trying to find time to read it at one sitting, circumstances made it impossible to do so, and I read it on January 5th and 7th, not reading at all on January 6th.

Bill asked me to consider this novel in comparison with the work of Frederick Faust. I can say at once that Bill's writing is more concise; the action of the story is speedier; and that the suggestions descriptive of Logan's world of the future are adequately conveyed without impeding the action of the story. Also, and this is important in a novel which is a sequel, only minimal references are made to incidents in the earlier book, so that this novel can stand on its own. From a commercial point of view, such references are sufficient to encourage readers who like this book to purchase a copy of Logan's Run in order to obtain the full story.

As a sensational action novel, I believe this book is a success; I do not think it was Bill's intention to have it considered as an important science fiction novel.

Action, sadistic violence and sex, and the imposition on all the characters of the savage conditions of a world almost in ruins, leave little room in the story for considerations other than the struggle for survival. Apart from their own love association, even the sexual experiences of Logan and Jessica are enforced and brutalized by circumstances and by the will of others; and the story leaves no room for the reader to imagine that, even after the elimination of oppression by killing the oppressors, their world will permit them a life of normal peace and happiness.

A serious weakness in the story develops following page 118 where Logan's recovery from a starved and beaten mindlessness to a victorious and powerful protagonist is portrayed without explanation other than the reviving influence of his recognition of Jessica. Bill manages to disguise this by shifting to other viewpoints and elements of the plot, but no reader can accept the change as credible.

I have just read my notes on Logan's Run, and I think my comments apply equally to this sequel. The Deep Sleep operative, or Sandman, when pursued instead of hunting, has no more hope of ultimate happiness than his former victims. Logan's World is a dystopia fulfilling Bill's apparent fear that our future based on present trends cannot be other than disastrous.



Nolan, William F.

Space for Hire; New York, Lancer Books, Inc. (#74778);  
(1971, Nolan) 174p.

Bill calls this his first science fiction novel since Logan's Run which grossed \$138,000, giving him time in which to edit five science fiction anthologies, write two detective thrillers, and a critical biography of Dashiell Hammett.

Allen McElfresh sent me this book, saying he considers it a "gigantic spoof of private eye stories in general and Sam Spade in particular". I would add that it is also a spoof of pseudo-scientific fiction, poking fun at time travel, alternate universes, robotics, size and age changes, aliens, dragons, witchcraft, hypnotism and brainwashing. I can believe that Bill had more fun writing the book than I had reading it. His spoofing also included brain-transplantation, reminding me of Bassett Morgan's stories in Weird Tales.

Samuel T (for Temperance) Space is a more brutal and less cerebral Sam Spade, and more up-to-date in his frank sexuality. Hired as a guard for a "mad" scientist Dr. Umami, whose three-headed Venusian daughter Sam finds attractive, he is misled into believing that a robot-controller Ronfoster Kane is planning the destruction of the universe, but finally learns that Dr. Umami himself is the menace. This disclosure is made only after Sam has encountered three selves in alternate universes and has either used or been used by all the elements of science fiction mentioned in the preceding paragraph. Esma mentions on the last page that Sam has probably not tied up all the loose ends of the story, and he agrees, but is too much involved with her charms to worry about it. The story is not intended to make sense, however.

Bill substitutes for authentic atmosphere "gadget" words to imply future and alien setting, and he does not concern himself with anomalies like chairs made to represent long-dead movie actors and actresses. He places the action in the year 2053 when these would have lost significance, excepting possibly as antiques. His book emphasizes just how hackneyed so many science fiction ideas have become, and he nearly laughs the hard-boiled private eye out of existence.

However, this book is slapstick rather than humor, and parody rather than satire. The story is unimportant and merely a series of situations designed to illustrate the ideas.

Probably Bill intended more laughs than I obtained from his book. I am perhaps still inclined to take science fiction and fantasy more seriously.





Nolan, William F.

The White Cad Cross-Up; Los Angeles, Sherbourne Press,  
Inc. (1969, Nolan) \$4.95 234p.

For no comprehensible reason, this second Bart Challis novel was remaindered at Coles for \$1.50 and later sold at a sale price of 75¢. It is extremely well-printed and bound; the story is an expert, fast-paced private-eye mystery in the Hammett-Chandler tradition, but with more emphasis on sex than was acceptable in their day, and the solution is well camouflaged.

Murder, violence and sex are the keynotes of the story, and the varied backgrounds of the characters reveal Nolan's personal interests, from comic books to rock bands to racing cars and drivers. As with others of Nolan's stories, I can derive from it an understanding of the things which interest him, but nothing of his fundamental personality. Plot and action and characters keep the story moving rapidly to its conclusion, but the whole is so obviously manufactured as a salable product that I get no feeling of actuality. Each element in the book is possible, and could be real, but the assemblage is as artificial as Chandler admitted his stories to be.

To me, the mystery story is like poetry: artificial to an extent that it screens from my comprehension any attempt which the author may have made to expound his own personality and his view of life. What I believe to have been Hammett's personality is to some extent revealed by his work, but I can not gauge either Chandler's or Nolan's from their writings. Both are expert craftsmen, perhaps excessively so. Do they pay so much attention to technique that any expression of genius is repressed?

After finishing the story, I had to think back to remember who was the actual killer of Anson DeWitt, Jr. Does the writing technique which makes it possible for any of the characters to have been the killer make the actual killer of so little importance? Likewise, many killings through the story imply that no other solution of a problem seemed possible to the killer; the compounding of his crime eliminates any thought of sympathy with the killer's original dilemma.

Reading the book was an interesting pastime, but I cannot think of anything which would require re-reading.



Nolen, William A. (M.D.)

Healing: A Doctor in Search of a Miracle; New York,  
Random House (1974, Nolen) 308p.

This is an excellent investigation of faith healing by a qualified surgeon. Deciding that the A.M.A. had failed to do the job, apparently through lack of funds, he acted as an usher at a Kathryn Kuhlman meeting, went to Texas to interview Norbu Chen and to the Philippines to watch "psychic" surgery. He witnessed no miracles: simply faith healing of functional disorders by autosuggestion of the believers who believed in the powers of the healers.

In the text, and in the final assessment of the problem, Nolen admits that the healers fill a need which the medical profession has failed, but explains the doctors' ignorance of the process of healing, and also what they are capable of doing.

I consider this to be a most valuable study. It makes clear the position of medical science today, its value and its weaknesses; and it gives adequate information about the charlatanism, as well as the benefits, of "healers".

Much light is shown incidentally on the influence of Alexandra David-Neal on Norbu Chen, and the apparently uncritical attitude of the Astronaut Mitchell concerning faith healing and Norbu Chen. The study of Kathryn Kuhlman is, I think, fair in showing her to be self-deceived, but a spell-binding mass-hypnotist.

Kreskin's view of hypnotism is mentioned.





Nordon, Pierre

Conan Doyle: A Biography; Illustrated; New York/ Chicago/San Francisco, Holt, Rinehart and Winston (1967), (1964, Librairie Marcel Didier, Paris; 1966, John Murray, London and Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Inc., New York); Translated from the French by Frances Partridge; Bibliography Index 370p.

This is a scholarly study of Doyle and his books, their place in literature, and their effects on contemporaries and the probable future of writing. Nordon complains of the few disclosures of his personal life, even in his two biographical works and his travel books, which make it difficult to portray Doyle accurately as a human being.

Like John Dickson Carr's biography, this has the benefit of research in the Doyle archives, and the family's co-operation. The index makes notes unnecessary, but this book must be retained for reference.

The more I learn of Doyle, the greater my admiration for him. He was a hard and expert worker, accomplished in many fields of sports, a war chronicler and tactician, a champion of the wronged and oppressed, a chaste and idealistic gentleman, and a crusader for causes in which he believed. I have not read any of his historical novels, and few of his mystery stories and books. His spiritualistic works and his science fiction and fantasy stories have occupied me mainly to date. I have three fairly large cartons of his books yet to read.

In none of the four biographies I have read is mention made of his contacts with Dr. T. Glen Hamilton of Winnipeg. This suggests a subject for an article if I can obtain enough information.

Nordon makes few comments concerning the mistakes made by Doyle, who was often misled by his beliefs into ignoring evidence contradicting them. Nevertheless, Doyle had strong evidence to support most of his beliefs, and was not the credulous dupe of crooks and frauds he is made out to have been in his later years. Only expansion of our knowledge can enable us to appraise properly Doyle's experiences and beliefs.



North, Andrew

Plague ship: A Dane Thorson--Solar Queen Adventure; New York, Gnome Press Inc. (1956, Andrew North) 192p.

Variant edition: paperback, same title by Andre Norton.

This appears to be a sequel to Sargasso of Space. Infected while exploring a new planet Sargol where they trade for gems, the crew is denied landing privileges, and has to overcome the guardians of a port. The story involves the training of a trader and the competition between independent traders and an international corporation's traders.

An above-average space adventure novel.



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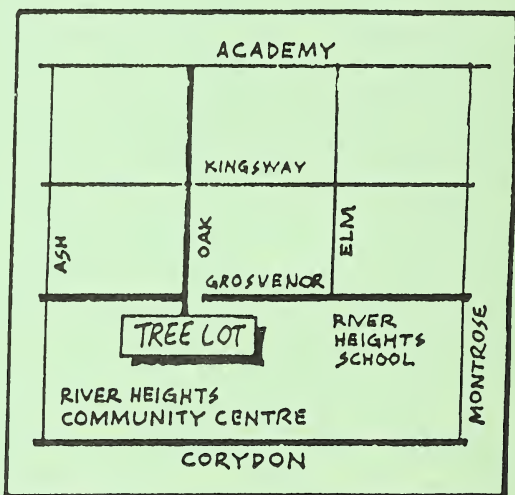
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North, Andrew (Andre Norton)

Sargasso of Space; New York, Gnome Press Inc. (1955,  
North) 185p.

This is the first Dane Thorson - Solar Queen adventure,  
and a good space adventure novel.

Venturing their entire capital to buy at auction trading  
rights to the planet Limbo, the crew of the Solar Queen are  
glad to charter their craft to an "archeological" group headed  
by Dr. Rich, who turns out to be the head of a looting group  
which uses technology operating on Limbo to attract space  
ships so forcibly that they crash on the planet.

Discovery of several of the looted craft and evidence  
that Rich has tortured and killed the alien inhabitants of the  
planet leads to their finding a maze in the center of which is  
the control panel of the attracting force. A dope fiend, Rich  
goes horribly insane, and is captured. The Solar Queen having  
cleared up the mystery of the disappearance of a Survey vessel  
are able to negotiate an advantageous trade for rights to a  
different planet, and are poised for another adventure.

This is the first novel I have read by Andre Norton, and  
it is competently written, though without much scientific ex-  
trapolation.

Bibliographical notes: 2nd title: Plague Ship #D-345, F-291  
3rd title: Voodoo Planet #D-345, G723  
1st title: D-249, F-279

The second printings are under the Andre Norton pseudonym.

New York, Ace Books #F-279

192p.





North-Broome, Nicholas

The Nixon-Hughes "Loan"; An American Public Affairs Institute Book (#Y1002Z); New York, March, 1972; Illustrated; 223p.

Documented by transcription of court records of suits filed by various interested parties, this book demonstrates the roundabout means of Hughes "loaning" through Nixon's mother and brother a campaign contribution of \$205,000; the loan specifically stating that no individual was responsible for repaying it.

As I was convinced years ago on the basis of reading Garrigues' "You're Paying for It", graft and corruption is inevitable under the prevailing political and economic system; and this book comes as no surprise to me. I feel that Hughes, at the Congressional (or Senatorial) hearing about his public relations man's activities, when he said he deplored the necessity, but would not agree to place himself at a disadvantage with his competitors by ignoring their practices, made the most open statement about his acceptance realistically of the society in which he found himself.

Again, it is the system which requires changing; and no amount of scheming is going to alter practice as long as the system is maintained.

This is an important book, but limited in its scope.



Norton, Andre

Plague Ship; New York, Ace Books (#66832); (July, 1964;  
Third Printing, October, 1973) 204p.

Variat<sup>N</sup> edition: Plague Ship by Andrew North.

See my notes under variat<sup>N</sup> edition.

New York, Ace Books (#F-291); (1956, Andrew North) 178p.  
(Cover shows Andrew North; spine shows Andre Norton)



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32 Shrimp with Mixed Vegetable.....		7.95	
33 Shrimp in Black Bean & Garlic Sauce.....		7.95	
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49 Beef Chop Suey.....		5.25	
50 Chicken Chop Suey.....		5.25	
51 Ming Court Chop Suey.....		5.75	
52 Mushroom Chop Suey.....		5.25	
53 Shrimp Chop Suey.....		5.75	

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Norton, Roy

The Blossom Belle; New York, Grosset & Dunlap (1934,  
The Curtiss Press) 250p.

This is a well-plotted adventure story about a gold mine owned by two partners who quarreled. Prentiss, a stern and righteous but fair man, kills his partner Holmes; and in his sorrow walls up Holmes in the mine.

Narrated by Chamberlain, who falls in love with Prentiss' daughter Mercedes, the plot hinges on his and his mentor's efforts to protect her rights in the mine against the machinations of Carpenter and Hepworth, two crooked promoters who try to get control for a song of the timber and water rights for a power project, believing the mine worthless. On the day of his death, however, Holmes had blasted to expose the vein of gold which would prolong the life of the mine.

The action and characters are adequate for this action story, but the writer's grammar and English are less competent than his plotting and skill of narration. A good adventure story, but aside from some technical information about gold mining, there is little to recommend it for a permanent collection.



Norton, Roy

The Garden of Fate; Illustrated by Harrison Fisher;  
Toronto, McLeod & Allen (circa 1910) 349p.

In Fez, Bob Marshall, United States consul to Morocco, and his daughter Charlotte are visited by Capt. Dick Whitney, foster son of Marshall and expected husband of Charlotte. Charlotte's best friend is Margaret Clarke, sister of the Kaid in charge of the Sultan's forces.

Marshall is frustrated in his efforts to protect from persecution and extortion former Moroccans who have returned from the United States though retaining their American citizenship; the Sultan asks him why they didn't stay in the U.S. but promises to investigate the charges.

Buhammei, who had met Charlotte in Paris and had fallen in love with her, seeks her hand of Marshall, who angrily rejects him as unworthy. The Moor is a prince whose father had mistakenly accused his mother of infidelity, and in the garden of the consulate is a second garden, the Garden of Fate, in which the accusation had been made, following which the prince's nurse had run off with him. Buhammei is a man of high honor who is determined to assert his right to the Sultan's throne; and the battle in which he sets his Berbers against the reigning Sultan's forces under the command of Clarke, and in which he goes down to defeat, makes up the climax of the novel.

Dick and Charlotte recognize their love to be that of brother and sister; Dick falls in love with Margaret, and Charlotte with Margaret's brother, Hamilton Clarke, who is in line for a title because of his elder brother's serious illness, which Margaret hides from him.

This is a good oriental adventure story, and the illustrations are quite striking and take up parts of the text pages in addition to many separate plates.

The only fantasy element in the story is the usual prophecy which is fulfilled when Buhammei dies in the Garden of Fate as foretold. This is not sufficient to place the book in the fantasy category, in my opinion, though it might meet the criteria of others.





Morton, Roy

(Note: This abridges the American title: The Toll of the Sea)  
The Land of the Lost; London, Hodder and Stoughton  
Limited, no date 318p.

A very well written, interesting, science fiction lost-race novel, this is an excellent example of my belief that the older books are neglected by fantasy readers and collectors. It is not included on Eichner's list of Atlantis novels, yet it should be considered among the best of these.

Captain James Tipton of the United States Navy, on a camping trip with an old prospector friend Bill Pape, is told by Pape that the latter is leaving for South America, having been warned by burning holes three times in a blanket that the time has come to give up his western american life. They have both known Dr. Martinez, a seismologist known as a Prognosticator of Evil because he has predicted an unprecedented submergence of the entire western coastline of the Americas.

Martinez gives warning of two cataclysms in time to save millions of people from death, but the circumstances of his warnings make him appear to have access to super-scientific resources, and also to have the ability to appear in various places in less time than any known means of transportation should have permitted. Efforts to trace Martinez fail, and a young Chilean lad Jose Vasquez, to whom Martinez has been like a father, devotes his life to the search, knowing only that a giant Indian has been Martinez' abductor.

Tipton, by believing in the warnings of Martinez, has been successful in saving lives and his own cruiser; and when later visiting South America, finds his old friend Pape saving the injured Vasquez. On the basis of heavy gold implements, they feel certain that a hidden Indian civilisation must soon be discovered, and Vasquez connects this with the missing Martinez. Tipton employs Vasquez as clerk on board ship while the boy recuperates, then determines to go with Jose and Bill in search of Martinez.

Tipton knows that two ships have disappeared, and during the cruise his cruiser discovers an uncharted land. His ship is rendered helpless by magnetic forces beyond his understanding; and gigantic Indians, one of who speaks perfect English, accept Tipton's parole and take him to a wonder-city still under construction. The sinking of the western American coast has caused the emergence of a land-mass from the ocean's floor, and the Quichuas, the origin Aryans, who have been hidden away in a secret valley in the Andes, are making use of their unlimited power and technology to create a new home on the new land, capturing any ship which comes within reach in order to maintain isolation. Having sent an emissary into the outer world, they have adopted from its culture anything worthwhile to them and included it in their construction of their new home. Councillor Manco and his daughter Ayara befriend Tipton and his friends, but a war-like councillor Choto-Aueco, who proves to have been Martinez' abductor, opposes them, and is killed by Pape, who dies following the encounter, thus saving the world. Pape succeeds in persuading the Quichuas to join the rest of the world, and to help civilisation.



Norton, Roy

The Toll of the Sea; New York, D. Appleton and Company,  
1909 (The Land of the Lost, 1909, Street and Smith) Four  
illustrations by Beverly Towles 377p.

I read this book in the cheap English edition, and enjoyed it very much which indicates that it was a good abridgment. Because it is such a good story, however, I am more than pleased to find this much larger American edition, which I shall use when re-reading the story.

It is interesting to note that the American edition has 30 chapters on 377 pages; and the English 29 chapters on 318 pages. The chapter headings differ in the two editions.

Because I have not read this longer version, I cannot say to what extent it amplifies the references to Atlantis, so I shall send a copy of this note to Hank Wichner with my recommendation that he look for the American rather than the English edition of the story.





Norwood, Gilbert

The Wooden Man and Other Stories and Essays; London,  
William Heinemann Ltd, 1926 240p.

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#2 is the story of a hoax perpetrated on a party of folklorists. #3 is the only science fiction story in the volume, and is based on seeing the past by means of light waves reflected from an object in space: Antony and Cleopatra and scenes from their history are observed. #4 is a reconstruction of an historical crisis: two opposing forces seek help from a mountaineer whose sole concern is to obtain brandy to save the life of his little girl. He pits one against the other, obtains his brandy, only to find that the doctor has arrived and that the whole conflict was unnecessary. 5. Commencing the Essays which comprise the rest of the book, this warns that even the number of good books published each year is more than any man can read. 6. Suggests that the constant barrage of advertisements is self-defeating. 7. Is reprinted from the Hibbert Journal, and is the most important essay in this volume. 8. Suggests that the years after forty are the best in life. 9. Is a satire on travelling by train in the second rather than the first or third class. 10. Tries to show how out-of-place, and better abandoned at the scene of their importance, are relics of the past, including books. 11. Contrasts the illusions fostered by books with the realities which experience reveals. 12. Pokes fun at the drivel which appears in poorer class magazines. 13. Is a serious study of "King Lear". 14. Reviews Petronius, particularly "Trimalchio's Dinner", retells the werewolf story, and mentions that this is followed by an anecdote about witches. 15. Declares that classical scholarship should not dwell further on textual problems, but should strive to reproduce the spirit and personality of the original: that poetry should be translated in poetic form, getting away from literalism. 16. Follows up this thought, praises the Loeb collection, and mentions that it is made available at a price far short of the costs of production.

#2, #3, #7, and #14 are the main items of importance to the reader of fantasy. On page 11 appears "which should rival

even Julius Levallon in extensive uncanniness." On page 133 "To me the whole hotel, the whole city, resembled that town of Mr. Algernon Blackwood's story—a cause du sommeil et des chats, and the rest; yet did my visit to Pisa antedate by some years the first of my numerous perusals."

Although well-written, this book has limited appeal for fantasy-readers, but may well have considerable value to the mind which appreciates classical literature.

I vaguely recall a story in an early issue of Amazing which may have been based on #3, possibly by ~~AMMAN~~ Amanus Marcellinus(?).



Wood, Rev. Robert Hinkworth (1874-1932) (Canadian)

The Witch of Endor: A Tragedy; Toronto, Mc Clelland,  
Goodchild & Stewart (1916)

121 pp.

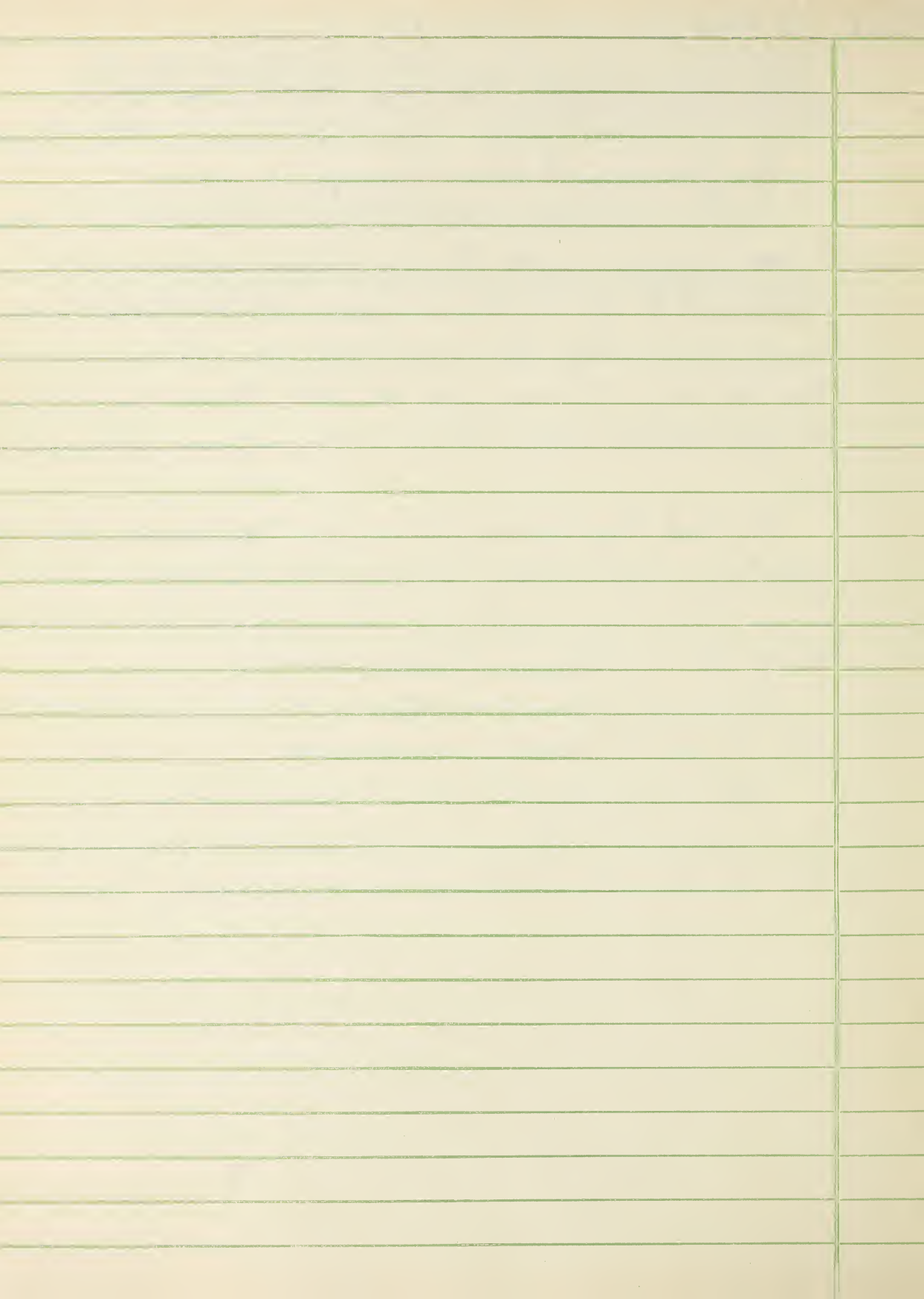
New York, George H. Doran Company

Louhamah the Witch of Endor and Priestess of Ashtoreth is consulted by Saul and they fall in love. Louhamah becomes a gleaner so that she may seek Saul, but the High Priest Ahimelech forbids their love because Louhamah is of the uncircumcised. Saul marries another gleaner Ahinoam, is anointed King, has children, but never forgets the Witch. Ahinoam dies and it may be inferred that her death is because she does not possess Saul's undivided love.

The traitor Dreg, High Priest of Baal and Saul's Chief Minister, turns Saul against his anointed David by disclosing that the prophet Samuel has anointed David King to replace Saul. He is killed by Abner in the camp at Endor after the spirit of Samuel foretells Saul's death.

Louhamah is delineated as selfless in her love for Saul which she defies the gods to withhold from her after death.

This is very good poetic drama, with spiritual significance and clear characterization. Prophecy and retribution themes provide the poetic elements which make it the only Canadian fantasy play known to me.



Nourse, Alan E.

Trouble on Titan; Philadelphia/Toronto, The John C. Winston Company (1954, Nourse) 208p.

This is an excellent science fiction novel, strongly plotted, with good characterization and action.

The mineral ruthenium found on Titan is a catalyst which enables limitless power to be generated for earth, bringing prosperity and a high standard of living for everyone in the 22nd century. Titan had been colonized by criminals, and for nearly two hundred years had been isolated from the rights and privileges of earth.

The colonists had rebuilt a wrecked space ship and were prepared to escape Titan and set off into interstellar space rather than continue their disenfranchised existence in the mines. Several agents of Earth Security had attempted to investigate the colony but had been unable to break through the barrier of distrust which its policies had created, so had failed in their mission to obtain co-operation. Colonel Benedict and his son Tuck were the latest agents, and they came up against the strong leader of the colonists, Torm and his son David.

David and Tuck became friends, discovered a traitorous plot by a few of the colonists who intended to take the space ship and abandon the rest to their fate, and by disclosing the plot were able to bring understanding to their fathers.

140 of the 500 colonists took off in the ship, giving Col. Benedict an uncontradictable evidence of the wrongs of the colonists, but the boys have agreed to continue the fight for their rights.

This novel confirms my earlier opinion of Nourse as a good science fiction writer.





Noyes, Alfred

No Other Man; Illustrated by Steele Savage; Philadelphia and New York, J. B. Lippincott Company (4th ptg, May 26, 1942) (1940, Noyes) 320p.

(Sixth Impression, New Edition, 1946) no illustrations.

British Title: The Last Man (London, John Murray, 1940)

This novel is a Catholic survey of conditions following the wiping out of mankind by means of a ray which stops the hearts of human beings only and causes their bodies to petrify and turn to ash. All nations having been sold the secret of the ray, it is used simultaneously; the man and girl who survive are respectively in a submarine and a diving bell, the latter accompanied by the villain, an amoral scientist who has been helpful in devising the ray, and who wishes the girl to become his mate and rule the new race which they will start. The survivors are Adams and Evelyn, and the association with the Biblical Adam and Eve is emphasised.

Most of the action takes place in and near Rome, Italy. This novel is a well-written but not nearly so interesting version of Shiel's The Purple Cloud, and is a plea for peace and an illustration of the futility of war.



Noyes, Alfred

The Sun Cure; New York, Cosmopolitan Book Corporation,  
1929 (1929, Noyes) 239p.  
Toronto, The Copp Clark Co., Limited, same format

This is a light novel about a priggish clergyman whose intellectual stuffiness turned off his girl friend, who tried sun-bathing and whose clothes were stolen by a tramp burglar.

Most of the story revolves around his adventures while trying to obtain clothes and evade observation by the village girls. Hunger leads him to steal food, and even tempts him to violence. His values are changed, and he realizes that intellectual cleverness is generally merely surface intelligence, without depth or wisdom, and seldom accompanies deep thinking. He gains a better understanding of life and of his own fundamental human nature, and is humbled and contrite for his former arrogance.

The story ends happily, but it is quite obvious that the author knows little about police or court procedure.





Nozaka, Akiyuki

The Pornographers; Translated from the Japanese by Michael Gallagher; New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 1968, (1968, Publishers) 305p.

This is a detailed and explicit novel about shoestring publishers of pornography in Japan. The dust jacket blurb gives an adequate summary of the book, but the details are illuminating and instructive. Without sensationalism, this novel is sensational and graphic in its portrayal of the strength of the sex instinct and the devious means used to profit from it commercially.

The promoter and exploiter finally graduates from the publishing to peddling flesh and movies and organizing orgies. Himself impotent and hoping that his step-daughter may be the cure he seeks, resorting to an artificial doll-woman in the meantime, he realizes that he and his cohorts suffer from occupational hazards and that overindulgence leads to physical and mental breakdown.

Yet for these people, the sex instinct is equated with the instinct for life, and life is empty without sex.

There is humor and wisdom mingled in the narration, and this book is worth serious consideration.

take care of you when you are old.

You have what appears to be a reasonable nest egg saved. Some in secure savings, some in real estate. And perhaps some in the market -- in stocks and bonds. In fact, all in all, your investments have been appreciating better than you expected, although uncertain market conditions make you a bit nervous at times.

What my assumptions boil down to is this: You are doing O.K. -- to all appearances you are taking care of your responsibilities.

You've recognized that making, and then accumulating, money is key to the quality of your life and you are doing alright.

However, I have some questions:

- \* Are you sure you are doing as well as you could and should be doing?
- \* How secure are you really?
- \* Are you really so enamored with work that you intend to labor until you must retire? (I know of no one who, on their death bed, expressed regret about not having spent more days of their life at work!)
- \* Do you really believe you must wait until you are old and broken before you enjoy the "good life"?
- \* For that matter, do you believe you have really amassed enough wealth to guarantee yourself a free and independent retirement?
- \* Do you really have enough wealth so that you don't have to worry about what will happen should you encounter a long or disabling illness?
- \* What about your spouse, your children, your children's children? Assuming you wish to gift them with a substantial legacy -- honestly, do you really believe you can do it?

I'll be frank. There isn't one Canadian in a hundred who, in the light of their true reality, can honestly answer "yes" to the questions and concerns I've raised.

I'm not talking about poor Canadians. I'm talking about people who, to all appearances, seem as if they're doing pretty well. You can call them "upper middle class" or what you will (a lot of these folks call themselves rich).

The sad truth is they aren't doing as well as they think.

You see, the truth is you may need a lot more money to get what you want than you may realize.

If you want to stop working now and live the good life (let's say



